

Rising from the Ashes (Andrew and Lauren)

#Chapter 13 - Read Rising from the Ashes (Andrew and Lauren) Chapter 13

Chapter 13 Andrew replied calmly, Oh well, its not like they were much of use to him anyway. Nyla looked puzzled, not quite understanding his meaning.

However, Andrew did not.

elaborate further.

With his medical expertise, he had long ago diagnosed Philips issues with impotence and premature ejaculation.

Hence, his penis was practically useless.

Suddenly, the office door burst open.

Bernard stormed in with a group of hospital staff, his face turning ashen at the sight of Philip writhing on the floor and clutching his crotch.

Dr.

Lloyd, as a medical professional, youve violated ethics by assaulting a colleague.

Do you understand the consequences? Bernard growled A doctor examining Philip exclaimed, This is bad, really bad! Bernards face paled

What is it? Did this bastard kill my son? The doctor shook his head

No, Dr.

Philips just unconscious

But Im afraid... his ability to have children may be permanently compromised.

The room fell silent, shocked gazes filled with pity directed at Philip.

A man having his most prized possession taken away was simply unimaginable, and any man would rather die than that happening to them.

! Bernards eyes flashed with purderous intent.

Dr.

Lloyd, youre dead.

Philip is my only son.

Ill make you wish you were never born! Andrew smirked

Your beast of a son sexually harassing a nurse in the office? Arent you going to say anything about that? Nyla stepped forward, tear stains still visible on her face.

Dr.

Hackett, Dr.

Lloyd isnt lying.

Dr.

Philip... tried to force himself on me.

If Dr.

Lloyd hadnt arrived in time, I would have been ... violated! The other staff members exchanged uncomfortable glances.

Philips disheveled state and exposed underwear painted a clear picture of what he had been up to before passing out.

Bernard wore a grim expression.

All of a sudden, he raised his hand and slapped Nyla, exclaiming, Nonsense! Youre nothing but a lowly

nurse

How dare you conspire with Dr.

Lloyd to slander my son ? Ill make you both pay! Nyla cowered, covering her head as she burst into

tears

Dr.

Hackett, Im not lying! Everything I said is true! Bernards sudden aggression stunned the other staff members.

Dr.

Hackett, you cant do this! Dr.

Hackett, lets talk this out.

Violence isnt the answer! Despite the protests, no one dared to intervene.

The hospitals chief was rarely seen, leaving Bernard, as deputy chief, to rule with an Iron fist His vindictive nature meant that anyone hoping to keep their job had to tread carefully around him. Suddenly, a hand shot out and gripped Bernards wrist tightly.

Bernard howled in pain and rage

Andrew, you bastard! How dare you lay your hands on me! Ill have you torn to shreds! The staff watched in disbelief as Andrew, usually mild mannered, showed such ferocity.

First, he had incapacitated the son

The next second, he was manhandling the father.

They could not help but wonder if Andrew was trying to take down both the Hackett father son duo. Andy, let go of Dr.

Hackett right now! Andy, youve lost your mind! You cant assault your superior like this! Bernard, Andys young and impulsive.

Please dont hold it against him.

The staff who liked Andrew tried to plead on his behalf.

Andrew, however, remained cold

Bernard, your sons trash, and youre just as much of a bully.

Do you seriously think no one in this hospital can touch you? Bernard sneered through his pain.

Youre damn right.

In this hospital, Im invincible.

You and that little tramp are both finished.

Andrews eyes flashed dangerously, ready to teach Bernard a lesson there and then.

Everyone, disperse immediately.

Dr.

Aicker is back.

Dr.

Hackett and Dr.

Lloyd, please report to her office immediately, the female doctor uttered coldly and left.

Bernard sneered, Not so tough now, are you, Andrew ? Now that Dr.

Aickers back, Ill make sure youre out of this hospital faster than you can blink.

With a cold grunt, he ordered someone to take Philip away and left.

The remaining doctors looked at Andrew with a mix of pity and resignation.

Andy, you know he runs things here.

Why cant you just keep your head down? Dr.

Aicker is strict and known for her zero tolerance policy.

Youve just ruined your career.

The Hacketts have connections everywhere.

Even Dr.

Aicker has to show them some respect.

Youre just an attending physician

How could you possibly go up against them? They shook their heads and dispersed.

They were certain Andrew would be retaliation from the Hacketts

fired and likely face Nylas eyes brimmed with tears as she mumbled, Dr.

Lloyd, this is all my fault.

If it weren't for me, you wouldn't ... Andrew gently cut her off.

Don't worry.

I'll be fine

Chapter 31 In Francesca Alckers office, tension filled the air. The entire hospital is in an uproar.

Dr.

Hackett, Dr.

Lloyd, I need an explanation, she said, her piercing gaze moving between Andrew and Bernard. While Jayrodale was full of beautiful women, Francesca was in a league of her own, standing at the top. After all, she was a beauty with a brain.

Coming from a prestigious medical family, she earned numerous honors at a young age, leading to her appointment as the hospital's director.

Most importantly, what truly made her stand out was her extraordinary beauty.

If Christina were the Ice Queen, elegant and cold, and Lauren was the passionate and fiery seductress, Francesca would be described as youthful innocence.

She did not have Christina's tall figure or Lauren's voluptuous curves, but Francesca had something neither of them did: a naive face and generous figure, cutting an impressive figure in her white coat.

In short, they called her a petite busty beauty.

Dr.

Acker, Bernard began, seizing the opportunity to speak first, Dr.

Lloyd assaulted Dr.

Philip in the hospital and then dared to attack me as well.

I demand he be fired immediately! 1

Chapter 14 Francesca glanced at Andrew from behind her desk, irritation rising at his seemingly indifferent attitude.

Dr.

Lloyd, dont you have anything to say for yourself? Or do you admit to Dr.

Hacketts accusations and violation of hospital policy? If so you can pack your things and leave this hospital

I dont condone unruly behaviors here.

Andrew frowned.

Dr.

Aicker, since you called us here, I assume youre already informed of the matter.

Why ask questions you already know the answers to ? You... Francesca glared at Andrew, her temper Daring

Bernard seized the moment and chimed in, Dr.

Aicker, look at him! He has no humility or respect.

Hes nothing but a thug

I suggest we fire him immediately and blacklist him from the medical profession entirely! Andrew replied coldly, Bernard, you and Philip are the real disgrace to this profession

How could you lie through your teeth? Bernard turned to Francesca, pleading, Dr.

Aicker, hes still unrepentant, insulting us even now.

Im the deputy chief! I cant let a nobody like him trample my reputation.

Please, do something! Francesca cut him off impatiently.

Enough

Ill handle this, Dr.

Hackett

You can go now.

Bernard was stunned.

Dr.

Aicker, what are you Francesca interrupted him, I said leave.

Ill investigate the matter and handle it accordingly.

If Dr.

Philip is falsely accused, Ill make sure the culprit faces the consequences.

Bernard had no choice but to leave

Since he had already asked Francesca to handle Andrew, he believed she would do so out of respect for his status

Once Bernard had left, Francesca leaned back in her chair, her perky chest straining against her coat. Well, Dr.

Lloyd, youre certainly quite impressive ! she said with a hint of sarcasm.

Andrew looked puzzled

Im not sure I understand your meaning, Dr.

Aicker.

He was baffled by Francescas sudden comment, especially since he could not recall having any interaction with her before.

Francesca smirked.

Lets not play games

We both know what Im talking about.

Andrew frowned.

Dr.

Aicker, I genuinely dont know what you mean.

But if youre referring to Philip and Bernard, my stance remains the same they got what they deserved. Francesca slammed her hand on the desk.

Andrew, dont try to change the subject! Lauren is my best friend, and our families have been close for generations I dont care about your messy personal life, but if youre after Lauren, I wont stand for it. Andrew was taken aback, finally understanding the source of Francescas anger.

I think youve misunderstood.

Ms.

Rhodes and I have no relationship whatsoever, he explained calmly.

Francesca scoffed.

Lauren might not see through you, but I do

You're deliberately trying to get her attention, aren't you? Andrew remained expressionless.

That's absurd. Is it? Francesca continued.

Were you Christina Stevens' boy toy before? I'll admit you have some charm, and Lauren's naive enough to fall for it.

But let me warn you, you're not good enough for her.

Not by a long shot

Andrew replied firmly, I'll say it again: there's nothing between Ms.

Rhodes and me

Andrew used to have some respect for Francesca, acknowledging her decent medical skills despite her age.

However, this exchange only proved that Francesca was nothing more than a short tempered, busty bimbo

Francesca sneered, I know there isn't, and there never will be.

You're not in her league.

Lauren's the heiress of the Rhodes family, a true socialite

Do you have any idea how many people in Jayrodale would kill to be with her? And you, she continued,

her voice dripping with disdain, instead of focusing on your career, you're busy chasing women and trying to climb the social ladder on their coattails

Why resort to being a kept man when you're a decent doctor? Andrew looked at Francesca gravely. Francesca, I think you're sick.

Francesca was stunned

What did you just call me ? I said youre sick.

Seriously sick, Andrew replied, his face blank.

Judging by your temper, Id say youre dealing with some hormonal imbalances.

Francescas face turned beet red

Andrew, you bastard! Do you want me to fire you? Andrew shrugged, turning to leave.

Go ahead

This little hospital doesnt mean much to me anyway.

As he reached the door, he added, But as a doctor, I feel obligated to warn you.

That condition of yours ... If you dont treat it soon, you might never experience the joys of intimacy.

With that, Andrew slammed the door behind him, leaving a fuming Francesca.

Francescas chest heaved with anger and embarrassment

Suddenly, a realization struck her- how did Andrew know about her deeply personal medical condition ? She wondered if Lauren had betrayed her.

She was embarrassed

After all, vaginal atresia was a rare condition that only affected a small Chapter 14
number of women.

Due to this condition, Francesca could not experience physical intimacy, which was why she remained a virgin

She was utterly at a loss for how to treat her condition and even resigned to a life of a celibate, destined to remain untouched.

Composing herself, she muttered, Andrew, I know Lauren will probably beg me to keep you on . Fine, Ill let you keep your job, but stay away from her.

You two are from different worlds.

Meanwhile, Bernard was at Philips bedside as he regained consciousness.

Philip, his face contorted with rage, demanded, Dad, you have to avenge me! Make Andrew pay.

I want him to suffer just as I did! Bernard tried to calm his son.

Phil, I told you to create a little trouble so we could get rid of Andrew.

But you went too far

What were you thinking, harassing that nurse? Philip was livid as he explained, Ive had my eye on Nyla for a while.

I knew she had a crush on Andrew, so I thought Id use her to set him up

Once he intervened, Id accuse him of assault, and then you couldve had him fired.

At the r mention of this, Philip got more worked up and started yelling, I didnt expect him to actually fight back.

He had seriously crossed the line by hurting my precious member, and Im not letting him get away with it

! Bernard frowned

You let your hormones cloud your judgment.

But dont worry, that punk wont get away with this.

Ive put pressure on Francesca

If shes smart, shell know what to do.

Just then, Francescas assistant entered the room.

Dr.

Hackett, Im here to relay Dr.

Aickers decision.

Effective immediately, Philip is hereby fired for misconduct and violating hospital policies.

The news hit Philip and Bernard like a thunderbolt.

Suddenly, Philip let out a scream before.

passing out again.

Chapter 15 News of Philips dismissal spread like wildfire through the hospital, leaving staff in shock at the unexpected turn of events

Serves him right! That creeps been harassing nurses for ages.

What an amazing news! Its about time someone stood up to the Hacketts.

Dr.

Lloyds got guts! Many were relieved Andrew had come out unscathed, while those who had hoped to see him go were baffled.

They wondered how Bernard lost this battle, as it simply did not add up

After all, Andrew no longer had Christinas support, and he was nothing in their eyes.

Some of the more imaginative male doctors exchanged knowing glances, wondering if Andrew had somehow charmed Francesca too

If so, they would never forgive him for snagging such a prize

On the other hand, Nylas colleagues could not resist teasing her.

Dr.

Lloyd played the hero for you, Nyla.

Shouldnt you show your appreciation? Thats right, Nyla ! Youre the belle of our hospital, and I think the only one who could sweep you off your feet is Dr.

Lloyd

You should go for it! Nyla felt her cheeks flush.

She bit her lips, gathered her courage, and walked toward Andrews office.

Andrew was alone, and when he saw the blushing nurse enter, he smiled and said, Dont worry.

You heard the news Philips been fired.

Nyla fiddled with the hem of her shirt and stammered, Dr.

Lloyd, I wanted to thank properly and also... tell you something Ive been keeping to myself for a long time

Andrew smiled encouragingly.

Go ahead, Nyla.

You can speak freely with me.

With twinkling eyes, Nyla whispered, Dr.

Lloyd, I want to be yours.

you Immediately regretting her boldness, Nyla covered her face and turned to flee.

She was worried that she might have come off too strong and made Andrew uncomfortable

In her haste, she bumped into the desk, crying out in pain and falling right into Andrews arms.

Before Andrew could react, a cold chuckle from the doorway made them both freeze.

There stood Francesca, her face a mix of shock and anger.

Andrew, youre despicable, Francesca spat

Confused, Andrew asked, What did I do ? Francesca sneered, What did you do? In broad daylight, in your office, youre having a nurse perform indecent acts.

Youre nothing but a sleaze, and Im going to make sure Lauren +26 BONUS knows exactly what kind of man you are

As Francesca stormed off, Andrew was left bewildered by her intense reaction.

Looking down, he realized the awkward position Nyla had landed in, her face uncomfortably close to his lap.

Um ... Even with his quick thinking, Andrew could not find the right words to say.

Before he could react, the office door burst open and a crowd of curious colleagues poured in . Whoa, Dr.

Lloyd, youre a real player! And with Dr.

Aicker watching? Thats next level! Nyla, we told you to confess, not put on a show!
Amidst the laughter

, Andrew sighed, knowing this misunderstanding would be impossible to explain

Meanwhile, Christina and Shawn arrived early at Wealthroller Investments, owned by Marvin.

They were there to submit their proposal for the orphanage property.

Shawn boasted confidently, Christie, dont worry.

With Stevens Corporations reputation and the Fields familys backing, Marvins bound to choose us for the development project

Christina remained cautious

Lets not get ahead of ourselves

Marvin is cunning, so we need to tread carefully.

Just then, a Wealthroller employee approached them.

Shawn grinned, See, Christie ? Good news already

However, his smile quickly faded as the employee spoke. Im sorry, Ms.

Stevens.

Your companys proposal doesnt meet our requirements. Christina felt a sinking feeling in her stomach. Did Mr.

Yates personally review it? The employee replied matter of factly, Mr.

Yates himself called it garbage, and thats why it was rejected.

Christina stood frozen in disbelief.

Her carefully prepared proposal, which she had considered.

flawless, was dismissed as garbage.

Shawn was enraged and demanded, I dont believe it.

We need to speak with Mr.

Yates directly

The employee barely glanced at him before scoffing, Meet Mr.

Yates? Do you really think youre important enough? With that, the employee turned and left, leaving Shawn fuming but unable to retort

As a member of the Fields family, he realized he was indeed nothing compared to Marvin, Jayrodales richest man.

He had only intended to show off in front of Christina, but instead, he had made himself look like a fool.

1 +25 ECERS Chapter 15: Christina sighed, disappointment evident on her face.

Wealthroller Investments is too big for us to take on right now.

Lets go.

Well have to give up on that property.

Unwilling to admit defeat, Shawn bragged, Hold on, Christie.

Im not useless like Andrew

I promised to help you get that land, and I will.

Ill have my dad call Marvin right now.

Christina looked skeptical

Can your dad really influence him? Shawn puffed up his chest.

Marvin might be a big shot in Jayrodale, but he still respects the Fields family.

He immediately dialed his fathers number.

Hey, Dad

I need you to call Marvin, you know, Jayrodales richest guy, and ask him for a favor, Shawn said confidently

Tony Fields, Shawns father, could not believe his ears.

What did you just say? Repeat that.

Shawn obliged, repeating his request, I need you to call Marvin and ask him for a favor.

Are you out of your damn mind? You want me to ask the richest man in town for a favor? Were not even among the top ten families of Jayrodale ! Besides, I dont have his number, you idiot! With that, Tony hung up, clearly furious

Shawn stood there with his phone still pressed to his ear, realizing he had just made a complete fool of himself

Chapter 16 At that moment, Andrew received a call from Marvin.

Mr.

Lloyd, Christina wants that orphanage property, Should we give it to her ? Marvin asked.

Andrew thought for a moment before replying, Handle it as you see fit.

But given our history, If Stevens Corporation makes a decent offer, let them have it.

Marvin sighed, I knew you still had a soft spot for that woman.

Alright, I guess Stevens Corporation is getting a good deal

Soon after, Christina received news that Wealthroller Investments had agreed to let Stevens Corporation develop the property

She was overwhelmed by the sudden turn of events and could hardly believe it.

Mr.

Yates finally changed his mind? The staff who delivered the message explained, Ms.

Stevens, your reputation as Jayrodales rising business star precedes you.

To be frank, Mr.

Yates received a phone call and immediately agreed to give it to you.

Christina was stunned when he heard that one phone call had changed Marvins mind.

She turned to Shawn, genuinely grateful.

Please thank your father for me

You've been a huge help, and I won't forget this? Shawn froze, his face contorted as if he had eaten something sour.

He knew the truth his family had no pull with Wealthroller Investments.

Moreover, Tony did not even have Marvin's number, let alone the ability to make such a call.

Is everything okay? You look troubled, Christina asked, noticing Shawn's odd expression.

Shawn forced a laugh and quickly said, No, no, everything's fine.

It's all going according to plan

I told you to relax, Christie

This kind of thing is child's play for the Fields family

While he bragged, he secretly wondered who the big shot was that could sway Marvin with just one call. Oblivious to Shawn's nervousness, Christina smiled.

You've been a great help to Stevens Corporation.

I'd like to treat you to dinner tonight.

Shawn's face lit up.

I'd be honored to join you for dinner, Christie.

He was thrilled, thinking, Andrew, from now on I'll be the one enjoying Christina's company and protecting her.

Just then, Christina's phone rang: She answered, Mom, what's wrong? On the other end, Irene was sobbing uncontrollably

Christie, Leroy and I were attacked.

He was nearly beaten to death

You have to avenge us ! Christine was shocked.

You were attacked, and Leroy was beaten ? Who did this? Her face immediately darkened with anger.

Irene burst into dramatic sobs, Who else could be ut that monster Andrew ? He put Leroy In the hospital. The doctor said if wed been a minute later, I might have lost my precious son

Leroys injuries were not nearly as severe as she claimed, but Irene exaggerated wildly to Christina, painting Andrew as the devil incarnate Sure enough, Christina was instantly enraged. Alright, Im coming right over.

If Andrew really did this, Ill make him pay.

Later that evening, Andrew arrived at the Jayrodale Grand Hotel at Laurens invitation.

Dr.

Lloyd, you made it! This way, please, Lauren greeted him, looking gorgeous in a floral sundress that was both alluring and youthful.

As soon as Andrew arrived, she took his arm, seeming perfectly at ease and unashamed about the gesture

Andrew felt a bit awkward.

Ms.

Rhodes, is this really appropriate? Lauren replied matter of factly, Is it not? I think its just fine. Andrew resigned himself to the situation, allowing her to press her ample curves against his arm.

At the hotel entrance stood two other women: Laurens best friend, Francesca, and her secretary, Eunice.

How long has this been going on between them Francesca asked coldly.

Eunice looked puzzled.

Ms.

Aicker, Im not sure what you mean by this.

Francesca clarified through gritted teeth, You know, their close intimacy.

How long has it been? Eunice finally understood, explaining awkwardly Ms.

Rhodes seemed to take a liking to him from their first meeting.

After he saved Ms.

Cecelia and fought off those thugs, rescuing them both, shes been completely smitten with him

Francesca turned and walked into the hotel, her youthful face turning icy immediately.

She thought Andrew was even more despicable than she had imagined

Nonetheless, she had to admit, his ability to charm his way into a cushy lifestyle was impressively swift. After all, he had clearly bewitched Lauren to this extent.

Francesca could no longer stand by and watch, and she was determined to expose this jerks true nature

With Lauren on his arm, Andrew entered the hotels luxurious private room.

He was immediately met with Francescas hostile gaze as she sat at the table.

Francesca had shed her work attire and was dressed like a noble heiress.

She only had light makeup, exuding an air of Innocent sensuality.

Andrew initially considered greeting her, given that she was technically his superior.

However, her unfriendly demeanor made him think better of it.

Pretending not to know her, Andrew found an empty seat and plopped himself down.

However, his actions only angered Francesca, and she silently cursed at him for ignoring her.

Lauren sat down right next to Andrew and smiled.

Its just the four of us today, no outsiders.

Dr.

Lloyd, let me introduce you.

This is my best friend, Francesca Aicker

She has what youre looking for, Lauren introduced.

Just as Lauren turned to Francesca, Francesca snorted and said coldly, Lauren, theres no need for introductions.

We already know each other.

Lauren was surprised.

Fran, you know Andrew ? Francesca straightened up, her tone icy.

Of course.

Hes just a junior doctor at my hospital, struggling to survive under my supervision.

Lauren smacked her forehead.

Im so forgetful! Of course, Dr.

Lloyd works at your hospital! I cant believe that slipped thy mind! Francesca asked, Lauren, didnt you

say a skilled doctor was coming today? Someone who could treat my condition? Wheres that person? Lauren smiled mysteriously, pointing at Andrew.

Ta da! Fran, Dr.

Lloyd is the expert I wanted to introduce you to.

Ive seen his skills firsthand.

I believe he can solve your tricky situation.

Francesca froze, then scoffed

I thought it was a real expert, not this con artist.

Him? Im the chief of Medicine at Jayrodale General Hospital and cant cure this illness.

Who does he think he is? Lauren frowned.

Fran, Dr.

Lloyd is my friend.

Please dont speak about him like that.

Francesca spoke contemptuously.

Lauren, since were all here, Ill lay it out for you: Andrew is nothing but a fraud and a gold digger.

Christina kicked him out, so he set his sights on you.

If I hadn't caught on in time, you'd have fallen right into his dirty trap.

She continued, Oh, and you don't know this, but today at the hospital, I caught this scumbag getting cozy with a young nurse.

It was disgusting, the two of them going at it in broad

daylight! How can a man like that be worthy of your attention? Lauren was shocked, looking at Andrew in disbelief.

Francesca smiled triumphantly.

Every word I've said is true.

Ask him if you don't believe me.

Eunice looked at Andrew with pity

His true colors were so ugly, Surely Lauren would kick him to the curb

Meanwhile, Andrew felt his temples throb, annoyed at Francescas nonsense.

At Chapter 16 first, he did not want to explain, but fearing Laurens misunderstanding, he thought he should say something.

To everyone's surprise, Lauren burst out laughing.

Oh my, Dr.

Lloyd, is it true? Did you really get intimate with a young nurse? I knew it ! You look all prim and proper,

like some celibate heartthrob, but deep down, you're a real charmer She grabbed Andrews hand affectionately and added, Dr.

Lloyd, look at me.

I've got the curves, the family background, and the looks.

If you're willing to give it to that little nurse, you have to give it to me too, okay? Pretty please? This

bizarre turn of events left Francesca dumbfounded as if she were struck by lightning

Was this her best friend, the same elegant, unapproachable Lauren Rhodes ? She had just called Andrew a disgusting scumbag, yet Lauren was still throwing herself at him.

Chapter 17 Alright, Ms.

Rhodes, lets get down to business, Andrew said, slightly overwhelmed by Laurens antics.

Her every move was irresistible, and he could not handle it anymore.

Laurens flirtatious smile faded as she nodded, Yes, lets talk business.

Fran, I believe Dr.

Lloyd can treat your condition, Lauren stated confidently.

Francesca glared at Andrew, scoffing, Him? Ive consulted top specialists nationwide and even visited renowned experts in Braundville

They all said it was complicated

What makes this small time doctor think hes capable? Andrew frowned, If Im not mistaken, the condition youre seeking treatment for is vaginal atresia, correct? Francesca felt embarrassed at the mention of her condition.

She turned to Lauren and asked, Lauren, this was our secret.

Why did you tell this jerk? Lauren quickly defended herself, Fran, I swear I never told him anything about your condition

Francesca was skeptical.

Then how does he know about my ... condition? Andrew calmly replied, Not only do I know about your vaginal atresia, but Im also aware that youve been experiencing insomnia, hormonal imbalances, frequent chest tightness, and shortness of breath.

These are dangerous symptoms that could lead to asphyxiation.

Francesca was truly puzzled.

Even if Lauren had revealed her personal medical condition, he had never told anyone about her other symptoms

So, how did Andrew know about them? Fine, lets say youre right.

How would you solve my chest tightness and shortness of breath? Francesca challenged, feeling like a novice despite her impressive medical background.

Andrew explained, Your chest discomfort is unique.

Its primarily due to your well endowed chest causing excessive pressure, especially with your quick temper

The solution is to control your anger and focus on relaxation techniques or undergo a breast reduction surgery to slightly decrease the... size.

Francesca fell silent, looking at Andrew with a hint of shock.

His diagnosis was identical to her grandfathers a renowned medical expert in Jayrodale and the founder of the Aicker familys medical legacy

Lauren chuckled and chimed in, Frans assets are a treasure! We cant reduce them.

Dr.

Lloyd, you dont know how comfy they are to sleep on.

Francesca was flustered and scolded her, Lauren, shut up! She glared at Andrew and continued, Fine, Ill trust you this once.

Now, how would you treat my condition ? Andrew replied calmly, It might be challenging for others, but for me, its just a bit more complicated than usual.

+2 BONUS Francesca was already caught up in Andrews rhym and eagerly asked, And then? Andrew shook his head, And then? Thats it.

I could treat you, but given your poor attitude toward ine, youll need to show some genuine appreciation If you want my help

Francesca was taken aback, then sneered, I knew It.

You had ulterior motives all along.

If you can really cure me, I suppose we could part with the Alcker familys rare Morlic Root.

Andrew shook his head, Im sorry, but I no longer need it.

And I wont be treating your condition.

Francesca was furious.

This guy was unbelievable suddenly changing his tune just like that.

Andrew spoke coldly. You should remember that youre the one asking for my help, not the other way around

Does your attitude reflect someone seeking assistance ? With his reputation, many influential figures in Jayrodale would beg him to treat their illness if he spread the word that he was accepting patients. Besides, Francesca was getting on his nerves.

Francescas chest heaved with anger, but she softened her tone.

Alright, I apologize for my earlier behavior.

Please dont hold it against me, Dr.

Lloyd

Andrew nodded, Very well, Bring me the Morlic Root, and then Ill treat you.

Francesca flared up again

Thats not how it works! Shouldnt you treat me first, then receive payment? Andrew glanced at her dismissively.

Im afraid my rules are the only rules that matter here.

Francesca fell silent, afraid of angering this petty jerk further.

On the other hand, Laurens eyes sparkled as she gazed at Andrew, a smile playing on her lips.

As expected of the man she had laid eyes on, he was indeed impressive.

Alright, now that thats settled, lets eat, Lauren chirped.

Dr.

Lloyd, try these dishes I personally ordered for you butter poached lobster, truffle risotto, and a prime dry aged ribeye ... After dinner, Andrew politely declined Laurens offer to see him off and left the Jayrodale Grand Hotel alone.

However, as he reached the lobby, he encountered a group of people he had rather not met.

Well, if it isnt Laurens new boy toy, Shawn mocked

Moving up in the world, arent you? Even dining at fancy places like the Jayrodale Grand Hotel now. Leroy was there too.

His head was bandaged, and he glared at Andrew with bloodshot eyes.

Christie, this is the bastard who beat me up.

Youve got to make him pay! With her hands on her hips, Irene adopted a smug attitude.

What a coincidence, Andrew, you little punk.

I was just wondering how to get my hands on you, and here you are.

Chapter 17 Christinas face was expressionless as she stepped away from the group and walked toward

Andrew, She asked, Andrew, dont you think you owe me an explanation for attacking someone for no reason? Andrew replied coldly, Perhaps you should ask what he did first.

Whatever Leroy did doesnt justify you attacking him.

Look at the state youve left him in ! Andrew, I never thought you could be such a vile person. Leroy is my brother.

How could you hurt him so badly? Christinas voice rose with each word, becoming increasingly aggressive.

Andrew let out a mocking laugh.

You come at me, pointing your fingers, without even knowing the full story, as if Id actually killed him. How exactly was I so brutal ? If hes really badly injured, how is he sitting here, eating and drinking? Christina was at a loss for words

Indeed, Leroy did not look as severely injured as she had been led to believe.

Moreover, with his head wrapped in bandages, she could not assess the extent of his injuries.

Both Irene and Leroy had insisted that Andrew had been ruthless, showing no regard for their past relationship, and had nearly beaten Leroy to death

Christina wondered if Irene and Leroy were lying, and her icy glare wavered slightly.

At that moment, Irene gave Leroy a subtle nod

Leroy immediately stepped forward, seething with anger.

Christie, why are you even talking to this ungrateful jerk? Look at my head he almost cracked my skull open! And thats not all

He was about to attack Mom too.

I stepped in to stop the animal, and he let loose on me.

Christina could not believe her ears.

Mom, did Andrew really try to hurt you too? Irene immediately put on a sorrowful face.

I didnt want to tell you this to spare you the pain, but since Leroy mentioned it, I might as well come clean.

Its true.

Ever since your engagement to this monster fell through, hes been holding a grudge.

He not only attacked Leroy but was ready to come after me too.

Leroy nearly lost his life trying to protect me.

The doctor said he even has a concussion ... As she spoke, Irene broke into tears, appearing utterly heartbroken.

Shawn quickly offered her a tissue, consoling her Mrs.

Stevens, please calm down.

Dont cry.

I cant believe this ungrateful bastard would dare to disrespect you like this

Mark my words: even if Christies too soft hearted to deal with him, I wont stand for it.

One way or another, hes going to learn his lesson today.

The three of them continued, each adding fuel to the fire, igniting Christinas anger once again.

Indeed, even if Irene and Leroy had done something wrong, Andrew should not have laid a hand on Irene

That was her mom, after all

3/4 Chatter 17 If Andrew could do that to her, what was to stop him from hitting Christina herself one day? With this thought, Christina could no longer contain her fury.

She grabbed a glass of water from the table and threw it in Andrews face.

You're a real bastard

If anything serious happens to my mom or Leroy, I swear, you'll pay for it in blood.

Chapter 18 That's my girl! Well done.

This ungrateful wretch deserved it, Irene cheered. Way to go, Christie! You should've slapped him too. Teach him a lesson he won't forget, Leroy added

The mother and son applauded, secretly delighted.

Shawn smirked.

Andrew, I almost feel sorry for you.

Christie's such a kind and gentle woman, and you not only fail to cherish her, but you also manage to make her this angry.

You're beyond help

It's no wonder Christie broke things off with you.

Christina froze as she watched the water drip down Andrew's face, soaking his shirt.

Why didn't you dodge? Andrew could have avoided it, but he chose not to

Are you satisfied now? Do you feel better? You know their true nature better than I do, yet you believe everything they say.

You're right, us breaking up was wise

Because you're nothing but a foolish woman! Andrew's icy tone and cold gaze made Christina shiver.

She started to doubt her own actions and whether Andrew was really the kind of person she thought he

was.

After all, Andrew was not the type of person she painted him to be.

Irene and Leroy were constantly stirring up trouble.

One loved to gossip, and the other was a bully.

How could she have believed them so easily? Suddenly, Christina felt a rush of regret.

Andrew, I- Andrew raised his hand, cutting her off.

I dont care what you want to say.

Ill just tell you this -take care of yourself

Your mom might be awful, but I didnt touch her

As for your brother, youd better find out what he really did.

If it had been someone else instead of me, he might have ended up dead, not just slapped around. With that, Andrew turned to leave

Christina hurriedly called out, Andrew, Im sorry.

Please, let me explain ! Andrew looked back with a cold smirk.

Explain what? Dont you think Im a jerk who cant be trusted? Youve already thrown water at me. Whats next, Ms.

Stevens ? Do you want to hit me too? Christina opened her mouth but could not utter a word..

Leroy shouted, Hey, Andrew ! Dont try to confuse the issue ! You beat me up and tried to hit my mom. Thats a fact ! Irene chimed in, Exactly! You clearly attacked us, a defenseless widow and her son. Leroy's injuries are proof.

My back still hurts, and I havent even held you responsible for that yet.

Shawn taunted, Andrew, stop playing the victim You cant fool Christle into feeling sorry for you.

Mrs.

Stevens and Leroy have evidence.

What do you have? The other diners in the restaurant turned to look at Andrew, their eyes filled with disapproval and anger

They all thought Andrew must be an idiot for offending the most popular and beautiful CEO in Jayrodale.

It was like picking a fight with every gentleman in the city.

Suddenly, a voice cut through the tension.

Who says Dr.

Lloyd doesn't have evidence? I was there.

I'm an eyewitness.

Everyone was stunned, wondering who had come to Andrews' defense.

The scent of expensive perfume filled the air as Francesca, a petite woman with a curvy figure, approached, carrying a designer handbag.

Andrew frowned, surprised she was still around and ready to dive into this mess.

Shawn and Leroy gaped at Francesca, practically drooling.

She was a knockout, the kind of woman men dreamed about.

Dr.

Lloyd, you're too patient.

This nasty woman and the ugly guy are clearly making things up, and you're taking the fall.

I don't get why you're putting up with this, Francesca stated, eyeing Irene and Leroy with disdain.

Irene fumed and shouted, Who do you think you are, you little tramp? Do you know who I am? Stevens Corporation is our family business, and my daughter is the CEO.

Francesca smirked, So what? I'm Francesca Aicker.

Should I care? Shawn gasped.

Francesca Aicker? You're the prodigy from the renowned Aicker medical family, the chief of Jayrodale General Hospital? Irene's eye twitched, and she immediately backed down.

Shawn, is she really from the famous Aicker family? Shawn nodded grimly, Not just that, she seems to be the legendary Dr.

Cedric Aicker's only granddaughter and protégé.

Irene instantly fell silent, her face pale with worry.

Stevens Corporation might be well known in the business world, but the Aicker family was Jayrodale royalty

In a real showdown, Stevens Corporation would not even be on their radar.

You must be Dr.

Lloyds ex, Christina Stevens, the popular CEO, right? Francesca asked, ignoring the others. Christina replied modestly, I wouldnt call myself popular, but yes, Im Christina.

Francesca spoke bluntly, You seem intelligent, so Ill be direct.

Your mom and brother are Jying through their teeth.

I saw your brother threatening Dr.

Lloyd with a knife outside my hospital.

When things didnt go his way, he took a swing at Dr.

Lloyd

She added, Oh, and your mom? Shes about 90% responsible for this mess.

Ive never seen Chapter 16 such a vicious woman in my life.

Dr.

Lloyd was too nice.

If it were me, Id have rearranged her face

Christinas face turned beet red with embarrassment.

She wanted to argue but did not know where to begin.

The truth was far more outrageous than Christing had imagined her mother and brother had played the victims when they were actually the aggressors.

Moreover, she had wrongly accused Andrew and even splashed water on him I cant believe you pulled a knife

This is beyond absurd, Christina said through gritted teeth, glaring at Irene and Leroy.

She felt utterly embarrassed by the whole situation.

Irene seethed with anger at Francesca but was too afraid to confront her.

So, she turned her wrath on Andrew instead.

Its all this losers fault! If he had just given Christie the land as he should have, Leroy and I wouldnt have

had to confront him! Leroy chimed in, feigning innocence, Christie, I just got carried away.

I only meant to scare him a little.

How was I supposed to know this jerk would provoke me? Shut up! Christina snapped, not buying his excuses for a second

Then, she turned to Andrew, her voice filled with regret, Andrew, I apologize.

Im truly sorry.

Ill buy you a new outfit to replace the one I ruined.

Its the least I can do

: Andrew remained indifferent.

That wont be necessary, Ms.

Stevens.

I couldnt accept anything from you.

Francesca batted her eyelashes at Andrew, looking pleased with herself.

Dr.

Lloyd, I cleared things up for you.

Dont you think you should thank me ? Andrew replied coldly, I dont recall asking for your help in my affairs.

Francesca glared at Andrew, fuming as she stormed off.

Her intervention had not been entirely selfless she had hoped to put Andrew in her debt, but he clearly was not playing along.

Shawn chuckled, trying to smooth things over.

Mrs.

Stevens, Leroy, Christie, it was just a little misunderstanding.

Now that its cleared up, lets move on.

Andrew, dont feel bitter about this.

Mrs.

Stevens is your elder, and Leroy is Christies brother.

You cant expect them to apologize to you, can you? Be the bigger man here.

After his little lecture, Shawn straightened his expensive suit and smiled at Andrew.

By the way, Andrew, you might not know this, but Ive helped Christie secure that orphanage property.

Im in a good mood today, so Ill do you the honor of inviting you for a drink to celebrate

Leroy chimed in with flattery, Shawns the man! Unlike some freeloaders who are good for nothing.

Chapter 18 Irene sneered, If a certain someone had even a third of Shawns ability, I might not find them so disappointing.

Andrew was about to leave, but Shawns words made him pause and chuckle mockingly.

Shawn, your skin is sure thick.

Are you sure youre the one who secured the orphanage property? Chapter 19

Chapter 19 Shawn looked at Andrew with a smirk.

Whats the matter, Andrew ? You sound like you have a problem with this.

Irene mocked, Of course he does.

He cant stand that youre more capable than him.

Hes just jealous.

Andrew shook his head, amazed at Shawns shamelessness.

He knew the truth Marvin had personally called him for permission, and it was only after Andrew gave the

green light that Stevens Corporation had a shot at the orphanage property.

Shawn raised his glass, looking smug.

Andrew, youre being ridiculous

Im graciously inviting you for a drink, and instead of being grateful, youre questioning me.

Your attitude suggests you think you helped Christie, not me.

Leroy scoffed, Yeah, right! As if a wimp like him could pull that off.

If he managed to do it, Id eat my hat.

Andrew turned to Christina, his tone serious.

A word of advice: youre surrounded by dishonest idiots with bad intentions.

.

Be careful.

Id hate to see you run the Stevens Corporation into the ground because you cant judge peoples character

However, his well intentioned words were met with displeasure from Christina.

Andrew, I dont understand why you always have such a problem with the people around me.

I know I you earlier with the misunderstanding, and Ive apologized

But that doesnt give you the right to baselessly smear the reputations of those close to me.

hurt Andrew was taken aback.

Baselessly smear? So you still think Im causing trouble for no reason? Christina sighed, waving her hand tiredly

Can we drop this? Honestly, Andrew, Im really disappointed in you right now.

Andrew let out a bitter laugh, realizing his good intentions had backfired.

Fine, youre always right.

Im the bad guy, Im targeting the people around you, and I cant stand to see you.

happy.

Is that what you want to hear? With a cold chuckle, Andrew turned to leave.

He had had enough of this foolish woman

Stop right there! Christinas voice was sharp, filled with anger and hurt.

Since youre being so nasty, Im done protecting your feelings.

Its bad enough that youre helping others work against me, but now you cant even stand to see someone nice to me? She could not believe that the man she had been with for three years could be so ugly on the inside.

Shawn chimed in with a smug smile.

Andrew, we get it.

Youre trying to get back at Christie for dumping you.

First, you became Laurens lapdog to annoy Christie.

Then, you teamed up with Marvin, using the wealth of the richest man in town to compete with Christie. Look, man to man, I understand youre Just trying to stroke your ego.

But take my advice real men rely on themselves, not others.

Andrew thought he heard the funniest joke

This dlot was truly a champion of misunderstanding, and his logic was so twisted that it was almost Impressive.

Christina glared at Andrew, her eyes filled with disgust.

Cat got your tongue? Werent you just saying I cant judge peoples character ? Andrew took a deep breath , fighting the urge to shake some sense into her

Your opinion of me doesnt matter.

But I still stand by what I said about Shawn- Christina cut him off angrily, shut up! Even now, youre still questioning him? Fine, Ill prove you wrong once and for all.

I was there when Shawn made the call.

He used his family connections to help me get that property.

I saw it with my own eyes.

What do you have to say now? Shawn was secretly thrilled to see the two at each others throats.

Finally, he had the upper hand over Andrew.

By the looks of it, Christina was thoroughly disgusted with this loser.

The chance was finally knocking on his door, and he believed it would not be long before he could have her in his bed

What a pathetic excuse for a man.

Ive seen gold diggers before, but this guy takes the cake.

If I were Ms.

Stevens, Id slap him silly.

Is he immoral or just insane ? A guy like him should just disappear.

I cant believe Ms.

Stevens had to deal with someone like that.

Its so unfair to her ! The other diners in the restaurant started muttering among themselves, their eyes full of contempt for Andrew.

A few men looked ready to jump in at Christinas command, eager to teach Andrew a lesson.

Just leave.

I never want to see your face again, Christina stated, pointing at the door and turning away in disgust.

Andrew, already eager to leave, replied coldly, Now I see youre not just foolish, but blind too.

As he was about to exit, a group of tough looking men in black suits burst through the doors.

Which one of you is the CEO of Stevens Corporation? You need to come with us, the bald leader barked

, a cigarette dangling from his lips as he pointed at the crowd.

The other diners cowered, sensing trouble.

Christina stepped forward, frowning.

Im Christina Stevens.

What do you want? Baldy flashed a sleazy grin

Well, well, arent you a beauty ? Tell me, that property in South City Stevens Corporation has it now,

right? Yes, Its ours.

What of it? Perfect.

Boys, grab her

Christinas face paled.

You wouldnt dare! Baldys grin turned sinister.

Oh, sweetheart, you ll soon see what we dare.

Were taking that property and you too

Just look at those beautiful legs of yours! Well have fun with you for a good long while.

Leroy rushed forward, enraged

Who do you thugs think you are? Touch Christie, and Ill skin you alive! A sharp slap echoed through the

room, followed by a sickening thud

Baldy had struck Leroy across the face and then delivered a brutal kick to his chest.

As a result, Leroy flew backward, coughing up blood.

this! Shawn stepped forward, his face grim.

Gentlemen, do you know who youre dealing with ? Im Shawn Fields of the Fields family.

Surely youve heard of us.

Irene walled, Oh no, Leroy ! My poor baby! You just got out of the hospital, and now t
Baldy sneered,

glancing at Shawn dismissively.

I dont give a damn who you are

Fields family? Never heard of that, trash.

Now, back off.

We want the South City property and this lovely lady, not your ugly mug.

Insulted, Shawns anger flared

You scum! Youre asking for trouble now

He dramatically pulled Christina behind him, playing the hero.

Dont worry, Christie.

Ill handle this.

Shawn felt his blood pumping

This was his chance to impress Christina and save the day.

He was confident that Christina would willingly be his after he saved her.

After all, that was how it usually played out in the movies, and it was undoubtedly true.

Listen up, fellas.

Ill let you in on a secret Im the one who helped Stevens Corporation acquire that
orphanage property,

Shawn boasted, lighting a cigarette and blowing smoke in Baldys face.

You want the land and to kidnap someone? Come at me

Im warning you though, you cant afford to mess with the Fields family, Shawn threatened.

Baldy and his crew stared at Shawn, dumbfounded

Irene and the others, misreading the situation, felt a glimmer of hope.

While Christina knew Shawn had ulterior motives for helping her, she could not help but feel a twinge of admiration for Shawns bravery, especially compared to Andrews supposed cowardice.

Shawn, feeling triumphant, cleared his throat.

Now, Ill give you one chance.

Kneel and apologize to Ms.

Stevens, and then- And then go to hell! Baldy snarled, grabbing a fistful of Shawns hair and yanking him forward.

Chapter 20 The crowd gasped in shock as they realized these thugs did not seem to care about the Fields family at all.

Baldy snarled, I hate showoffs like you the most Lets see how tough you really are.

Boys, teach him a lesson ! With that command, the gang approached Shawn kicking and stomping him mercilessly

Stop it, you bastards! Shawn screamed, his bravado evaporating instantly.

I order stop right now, or Ill make you all disappear! you to His threats quickly turned to pitiful pleas. Please, stop! Im begging you! Youre going to kill me ! Shawns face was a mess of bruises, his nose broken.

The worst pain came from a vicious kick to his groin, leaving him wondering if he could ever father children

Christina stepped forward, her face ashen

You thugs! What gives you the right to beat someone like this? Just as she rushed to shield Shawn with her body, Baldy called for his men to stop.

He sneered at Shawns battered form.

Your pathetic Fields family is nothing but dirt to Mr.

Garner

Got it? Since you claim to have a stake in the orphanage property, youre coming with us to see the boss

Grab him and the girl! Shawn, trembling, asked, Wait... When you say Mr.

Garner, are you talking about Mr.

Dylan Garner, the South City crime lord? Baldy grunted in affirmation.

Its too late to realize who youre messing with! Take him.

away, and Christina too! Irene and the barely conscious Leroy watched in terror, too scared to interfere. These guys were ruthless and clearly did not even respect the Fields family, Hence, they had already lost their nerve.

Suddenly, Shawns demeanor changed

Wait! I have something to say, he pleaded

That orphanage property has nothing to do with me.

Just leave me out of this, okay? As soon as he said this, Christina, Irene, and Leroy looked at him in disbelief.

However, Shawn could not care less about anything anymore.

To hell with everything, he thought.

If he could.

not save himself, nothing else mattered

He grabbed Baldys leg, begging, Im being honest here.

The land is in Stevens Corporations hands.

Neither the Fields family nor I had anything to do with it.

Baldy chuckled, amused.

Werent you just bragging about helping her acquire it? You seemed pretty proud of yourself then.

1/2 Chapter 20 Shawn forced a laugh.

I was just talking big

I dont have that kind of pull.

Mr.

Garner must want the property, right? Go after Stevens Corporation and Christina.

They have it.

The Fields family and I are completely uninvolved.

Irene gasped

Shawn, what are you saying? Didnt you help Christie get that property? Shut up, you old hag! Dont pin this on me! Shawn snapped back before turning to Christina.

Ill come clean now, Christie.

The Fields family had nothing to do with getting that property.

It wasnt me

Christinas face paled as the realization hit her.

So... Andrew was right all along? Ive wronged him ... She frantically looked around, searching the room for Andrew.